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All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

-- Article 1, Section 1, New Jersey State Constitution

The Long-Hidden Saudi 9/11 Connection

By Kristen Breitweiser

On June 17 the New York Times published an article by Mark Mazzetti regarding Saudi Arabia's role in the 9/11 attacks, including the support that two Saudis gave to two 9/11 hijackers.

In 1997, Saudi intelligence arrested future 9/11 hijackers Khalid al Mihdhar and Nawaf al Hazmi as they attempted to bring weapons into Saudi Arabia. From that point on, the Kingdom monitored the activities of these Al Qaeda operatives.

Also around that time, U.S. intelligence came across the Yemen Switchboard, a calling station where Al Qaeda operatives around the world checked in and passed information back and forth.

By eavesdropping on the switchboard, intelligence agencies discovered information regarding: the Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, the bombing of the USS Cole, the attempted bombing of the USS The Sullivans, the 9/11 attacks and the meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, known as the "terrorist summit," held in January 2000. U.S. authorities tracked Mihdhar and Hazmi to this meeting and from there to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on Jan. 15, 2000.

On Dec. 14, 1999, Al Qaeda terrorist Ahmed Ressaam was arrested at a Seattle, Washington ferry crossing on his way to blow up LAX as part of al Qaeda's Millennium attacks. Ressaam — without the use of torture, I might add — shared vital information about Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda's attempts to attack the U.S.

Indeed, several of the things detailed by Ressaam were likely

included in the Aug. 6, 2001 Presidential Daily Briefing, "Bin Laden Determined to Strike in U.S.," as well as the top-secret documents that Clinton National Security Advisor, Sandy Berger, scandalously stole from the National Archives.

These apparently very damning documents were destroyed by Berger — so, we'll never know what was in that report. A Saudi role? Who's to say? Berger is dead, and he certainly didn't leave any clues behind.

So, let's review what we have so far: the 1997 arrest of al Mihdhar and al Hazmi by Saudi intelligence (our allies); Saudi monitoring of the two Al Qaeda operatives from that point onwards; eavesdropping of the Yemen Switchboard by U.S. and possibly Saudi intelligence; the arrest of Ressaam in December 1999; his sharing of boatloads of Al Qaeda information; and the arrival of Mihdhar and Hazmi into LAX on Jan. 15, 2000.

Mazzetti's article discusses the curious facts surrounding the arrival of these 9/11 hijackers on Jan. 15, 2000, when Saudi agent Omar Bayoumi met them at LAX.

Indeed, to this day, the FBI's timeline of the 9/11 attacks, has the hijackers being met by Bayoumi and living with Bayoumi for the first two weeks of their stay in the United States.

Hoping to leave a fantasy saleable to the U.S. public, the Saudis want us to believe that Bayoumi was just being a good Muslim when he "coincidentally" met the two operatives.

Nevertheless, Bayoumi met Mihdhar and Hazmi after reportedly being at the Saudi Consulate in Los Angeles with a man who fits the description of Fahad al Thumairy.

Fahad al Thumairy was an administrative officer at the Saudi Consulate in L.A.. After 9/11, U.S. authorities learned that Fahad al Thumairy had extensive contacts with Al Qaeda. Evidence now points to Bayoumi as the advance man for Mihdhar and Hazmi. His job was to provide financial and logistical support for the two terrorists since neither of them spoke English, nor had they ever lived in the U.S.

Immediately after his meeting with Thumairy at the Saudi Consulate on Jan. 15, 2000, Bayoumi picked up Mihdhar and Hazmi and drove them to San Diego where they lived with him for two weeks. Mihdhar and Hazmi stayed as guests in Bayoumi's home until Bayoumi found them an apartment next door to his own. On Feb. 5, 2000, Bayoumi appears as co-signor and guarantor for Hazmi and Mihdhar on their rental application. They listed Bayoumi's home as their prior address.

Bayoumi then helped the two 9/11 terrorists open a bank account at Bank of America with a \$9,900 cash deposit.

In addition, Bayoumi gave a welcoming party for the two 9/11 terrorists to introduce them to the San Diego Muslim Community. Members of that community included radical Imam Anwar Awlaki who was killed by a drone strike in 2011 and was connected to nearly 25 terrorist attacks. According to intelligence reports, Al Qaeda operative Anwar Awlaki met on many occasions with the two 9/11 hijackers and Omar Bayoumi.

Because of this frequent travel, Bayoumi arranged for the hijackers to have a "handler" for the times that he was away from them. This handler's job was to help the two

terrorists obtain social security cards, driver's licenses, purchase a new car, and arrange for their flying lessons so they would eventually be able to fly AA Flight 77 into the Pentagon on the morning of 9/11....

And, in the 15 years since the 9/11 attacks? What has happened to the Saudis and their ties to the 9/11 attacks? Any real, unfettered investigation? Any genuine accountability? Any clear answers? Any truth? Not one bit.

So what's left? The murder of more than 3,000 innocent people. Two wars. Thousands of U.S. military killed, and thousands more seriously injured. Countless innocent Afghans and Iraqis killed and injured. And, a burgeoning ISIS still hell-bent on killing Americans because of our values, our beliefs, and mostly our failed intelligence and foreign policies.

Kristen Breitweiser is a 9/11 widow who – working with other 9/11 widows known collectively as the “Jersey Girls” – pressured the U.S. government to conduct a formal investigation into the terror attacks on Sept. 11, 2001

-- www.huffingtonpost.com June 20, 2016

Gay Gun Group: Shoot Back

A gay gun group is urging the LGBTQ community to consider carrying weapons to fight back against attacks like the weekend slayings in an Orlando club.

Pink Pistols spokesperson Gwendolyn Patton said, "Let us not reach for the low-hanging fruit of blaming the killer's guns. Let us stay focused on the fact that someone hated gay people so much they were ready to kill or injure so many."

She noted that several states [including Florida] ban guns in bars, so she suggested a provision that allows a designated "carrier" with a concealed carry permit.

"Just as one might have a designated driver who stays sober, one might have a designated carrier with a concealed-carry permit who goes armed and does not drink. 'We must find ways to protect ourselves within the law,' said Patton.

The group has 45 chapters nationally and promotes self defense against gay attacks.

"We no longer believe it is the right of those who hate and fear gay, lesbian, bi, trans, or polyamorous persons to use us as targets for their rage. Self-defense is our RIGHT," the group says on its homepage.

Patton said, "I say again, GUNS did not do this.... Our job now is not to demonize the man's tools, but to condemn his acts and work to prevent such acts in the future."

-- washingtonexamimer.com 6/13/16

LGBT Gun Group Membership Spikes after Orlando Shooting

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) -- Memberships have more than doubled in a national LGBT pro-gun rights organization since a gunman opened fire at a gay nightclub in Florida, killing 49 people

Pink Pistols Utah chapter President Matt Schlentz said Pink Pistols membership has grown from 1,500 to 4,000 since Omar Mateen's June 12 rampage, the Salt Lake Tribune reported.

Schlentz owns semi-automatic rifles similar to the Sig Sauer MCX that Mateen used, and he said he gets mixed reactions from people who learn he's a gun rights advocate.

"Obviously, as a gay man, I have to have some liberal views socially. But on this one point, I have very conservative views. The reality is what it is - the world is a violent, terrible, scary place, and people do wish me harm based on who I love."

Pink Pistols organized in 2000 in response to a series of violent incidents like the murder in Wyoming of gay college student Matthew Shepard. Some early slogans were "Queers bash back" and "Pick on someone your own caliber."

-- July 2, 2016

16 Most Notorious Hillary Clinton Scandals (#13-16)

With the spotlight now on Hillary and her presidential campaign, pundits and opponents have rebuked the former First Lady for her proven track record of scandalous dealings, both past and present. She may just have a knack for being in the wrong place, at the wrong time; or maybe there's more to Hillary's past....

13. Clinton Foundation Scandal. The Clinton Foundation was set up by Bill after he left the White House. The nonprofit operation was set to deal with issues like global warming and climate change. Many alleged at the time that the Clintons used the foundation to forward their own personal agendas. It culminated in allegations of back handers and dodgy dealings which prevail to this day Read more at: <https://tr.im/ivJMX>

14. Benghazi scandal. This is one of the most famous scandals

that Hillary Clinton found herself embroiled in. Back in 2012, four Americans were killed during attacks on a US diplomatic compound in Benghazi, including the Ambassador Christopher Stevens. Hillary's conduct as Secretary of State was bought into question due to her various email accounts and the way she used them.

15. Cattle money scandal. This scandal dates back to the 1970s when Hillary Clinton made a tidy profit of \$100,000 trading on the cattle futures market. She was in cahoots with a personal friend at the time who worked for Tyson Foods Inc. Apparently, according to a New York Times article from 1994, Tyson Foods received \$9 million in government loans, deeming the whole saga very unsavory and questionable. Read more at: <https://tr.im/3yEtq>

16. Clinton speeches scandal. It's not just Bill who made a packet for giving 45 minute speeches at various institutions, but also daughter Chelsea, and of course, wife Hillary Clinton. While Chelsea's standard fee in 2014 was around the \$65,000 mark, Hillary reported a personal income of a staggering \$11 million for a total of 51 speeches she gave in just a year. If that's not scandalous nothing is! Read more at: <https://tr.im/3yEtq>

-- livedaily.com/16-most-notorious-hillary-clinton-scandals

De Blasio credits less guns for more stabbings

New York mayor Bill de Blasio is trying to put a positive spin on a recent rash of stabbings and slashings across the city. He credits the NYPD taking guns off of the street.

New Yorkers have been on edge because of a series of highly-reported attacks, including several seemingly random attacks on the subways. The city was averaging more than 10 stabbing attacks a day in the first six weeks of the year.

The mayor claims that since there are so many fewer guns on the street, officers can now focus on criminals using knives and razors.

-- FOX5NY March 4, 2016

Disturbing Details Permeate CIA's Declassified Torture Documents

By Elizabeth Paulat

Newly declassified documents on torture techniques used by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) have sickened human rights activists.

ACLU Deputy Legal Director Jameel Jaffer says that the documents [resulting from a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit] said, "These records underscore the cruelty of the methods the agency used in its secret, overseas black sites. It bears emphasis that these records document grave crimes for which no senior official has been held accountable."

According to the papers, prisoners were often kept in adult diapers -- and nothing else. Prisoners also endured total darkness and music playing 24 hours a day. The report also notes that, although heating was a known challenge in the cell, if they ran out of diapers, prisoners were placed in their cells nude.

A prisoner named Gul Rahman was often chained in a standing position for days and forced into cold showers. The night he died, Rahman was nude from the waist down. Reports say guards saw him shaking on the floor of his cell but didn't think it merited intervention.

Other documents detail the use of "awkward boxes," offered in two sizes. Detainees without certain health challenges, like cardiovascular issues, were put into boxes that only allowed them enough space to sit with their legs crossed. Prisoners were held in this confinement for around two hours at a time.

Other boxes, designed for those with greater health issues, were about the size of a coffin -- just clearing the head and body. Prisoners were confined for up to eight hours multiple times a day, not to exceed 18 hours.

The papers, which essentially amount to medical instruction on how to bring someone to the brink of death and destroy them psychologically for the purpose of interrogation, are full of similarly disturbing details. Waterboarding is laid out in sterile and unsettling detail as a potentially lethal method that, therefore, deserved "precautions."

In another instance, medical professionals note that standing for prolonged periods -- with hands shackled to a metal bar above the prisoner -- can cause swelling in the lower limbs. Because of this, they say, it's important to ensure that the shackles can be loosened as needed.

These methods absolutely amount to torture and break numerous international treaties and human rights laws. However, so far no one has held any major officials accountable for these gross violations.

The ACLU is calling on President Obama to launch a full

criminal investigation before leaving office, emphasizing that it is the "least he could do."

But without public support to hold the officials who instituted these programs accountable, it seems that the vast rendition and torture network -- paid for with our tax dollars -- will continue to go unchallenged.

-- www.truth-out.org 26 June 2016

Lizabeth Paulat is a freelance writer based out of Kampala, Uganda

There Are Now More Bureaucrats With Guns Than U.S. Marines

There are now more non-military government employees who carry guns than there are U.S. Marines, according to a new report.

Open the Books, a taxpayer watchdog group, released a study Wednesday that finds government agencies continue to grow their stockpiles of military-style weapons, as Democrats sat on the House floor calling for more restrictions on what guns American citizens can buy.

The "Militarization of America" report found civilian agencies spent \$1.48 billion on guns, ammunition, and military-style equipment between 2006 and 2014.

"For example, the Food and Drug Administration includes 183 armed 'special agents'. Health and Human Services (HHS), 'Special Office of Inspector General Agents' are now trained with sophisticated weaponry by the same contractors who train our military special forces troops," Open the Books said.

There are now over 200,000 non-military federal officers with arrest and firearm authority, surpassing the 182,100 personnel in the U.S. Marines Corps.

The IRS spent nearly \$11 million on guns, ammunition, and military-style equipment for its 2,316 special agents [who are armed with] pump-action and semi-automatic shotguns, semi-automatic Smith & Wesson M&P15s, and Heckler & Koch H&K 416 rifles, with 30-round magazines.

The EPA spent \$3.1 million on guns, ammo, and equipment, including drones, night vision, "camouflage and other deceptive equipment," and body armor.

"Many purchases were mischaracterized or blown out of proportion in the report," said spokesman Nick Conger. "EPA's criminal enforcement program has not

purchased unmanned aircraft, and the assertions that military-grade weapons are part of its work are false."

Other agencies that have purchased guns and ammo include the Small Business Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of Education, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Open the Books appealed to both liberals like Bernie Sanders—who has called for demilitarizing local police departments—and conservatives in its report.

Update June 23. Following publication of this article, Adam Andrzejewski, the CEO of Open the Books, pushed back against the EPA's statement.

"How can the EPA spokesperson deny hard facts from their own checkbook?" he said. "Alongside our oversight report, OpenTheBooks.com also released a PDF of all raw data. This line-by-line transactional record from the EPA's own checkbook on page 113 clearly shows that in 2013 and 2014 the EPA purchased tens of thousands of dollars of 'Unmanned Aircraft' from Bergen RC Helicopters Inc which on a net basis amounted to approximately \$34,000."

-- freebeacon.com June 22, 2016

Law Enforcement Sources: Gun Used in Paris Terrorist Attacks Came from Phoenix

One of the guns used in the November 13, 2015 Paris terrorist attacks came from Phoenix, Arizona where the Obama administration allowed criminals to buy thousands of weapons illegally in a deadly and futile "gun-walking" operation known as "Fast and Furious."

Report of Investigation (ROI) filed by a case agent in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms and Explosives (ATF) tracked the gun to a Phoenix gun owner who sold it illegally, "off book," Judicial Watch's law enforcement sources confirm.

The investigative follow up of the Paris weapon consisted of tracking a 4473 form by using serial numbers. The Phoenix gun owner that the weapon was traced back to was found to have at least two federal firearms violations but no enforcement or prosecutorial action was taken. Instead, ATF leaders went out of their way to ensure that the gun owner's identity was "kept quiet," according to law enforcement sources involved with the case. "Agents were told not to anger the seller to prevent him from

going public," a veteran law enforcement official told Judicial Watch.

It's not clear if the agency, which is responsible for cracking down on the illegal use and trafficking of firearms, did this because the individual was involved in the Fast and Furious gun-running scheme. An ATF spokesman, Corey Ray, at the agency's Washington D.C. headquarters told Judicial Watch that "no firearms used in the Paris attacks have been traced" by the agency. When asked about the ROI report linking the weapon used in Paris to Phoenix, Ray said "I'm not familiar with the report you're referencing." Multiple calls to the Phoenix office were not returned.

The ATF ran the Fast and Furious experiment and actually allowed criminals, "straw purchasers," working for Mexican drug cartels to buy weapons at federally licensed firearms dealers in Phoenix and allowed the guns to be "walked"—possessed without any knowledge of their whereabouts. The government lost track of most of the weapons and many have been used to murder hundreds of innocent people as well as a U.S. Border Patrol agent, Brian Terry, in Arizona. Judicial Watch has thoroughly investigated Fast and Furious and has sued the Obama administration for information about the once-secret operation.

-- www.judicialwatch June 29, 2016

The scandal in Washington no one is talking about

By Paul Sperry

The deadly-but-forgotten government gun-running scandal known as "Fast and Furious" has lain dormant for years, thanks to White House stonewalling and media compliance. But newly uncovered emails have exposed the coverup by an administration that promised to be the most transparent in history.

A federal judge has forced the release of more than 20,000 pages of emails and memos previously locked up under President Obama's phony executive-privilege claim. A preliminary review shows top Obama officials deliberately obstructing congressional probes into the gun-running operation.

Fast and Furious was a Justice Department program that allowed assault weapons — including .50-caliber rifles powerful enough to take down a helicopter — to be sold to Mexican drug cartels allegedly as a way to track them. But internal documents later revealed the real goal

was to gin up a crisis requiring a crackdown on guns in America. Fast and Furious was merely a pretext for imposing stricter gun laws.

Only the scheme backfired when Justice agents lost track of nearly 2,000 guns — including one that claimed the life in 2010 of US Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry at the hands of Mexican bandits, who shot him in the back with government-issued semiautomatic weapons. Caught red-handed, "the most transparent administration in history" flat-out lied about the program to Congress, denying it ever even existed.

Then Team Obama conspired to derail investigations into who was responsible by first withholding documents under subpoena — for which Attorney General Eric Holder earned a contempt-of-Congress citation — and later claiming executive privilege to keep evidence sealed.

But thanks to the court order, Justice has to cough up the "sensitive" documents.

"The documents reveal how senior Justice Department officials — including Attorney General Holder — managed an effort to carefully limit and obstruct the information produced to Congress," House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Jason Chaffetz asserted.

They also indict Holder deputy Lanny Breuer, an old Clinton hand, who had to step down in 2013 after falsely denying authorizing Fast and Furious.

Talking points drafted for Holder and other brass for congressional hearings made clear that Justice intended to make ousted Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms officials the fall guys for the scandal.

"These (personnel) changes will help us move past the controversy that has surrounded Fast and Furious," Assistant Attorney General Ron Weich wrote in August 2011.

"Over the course of the investigation," Chaffetz recounted, "the Justice Department has provided false information, stonewalled document requests, produced scores of blacked-out pages and duplicate documents and refused to comply with two congressional subpoenas."

Obama insists Fast and Furious is just another "phony" scandal whipped up by Republicans to dog his presidency. What does his heir apparent Hillary Clinton think?

The anti-gun zealot has been silent on the gun-proliferation scandal. But then, she's been busy sweeping

subpoenaed emails under the rug of her own scandal.

Paul Sperry is former Washington bureau chief for Investor's Business Daily and author of "Infiltration" and "Muslim Mafia".

-- nypost.com May 21, 2016

Muslim Mafia: Inside the Secret Underworld that's Conspiring to Islamize America by P. David Gaubatz and Paul Sperry

You've heard about the courageous young investigators who covertly videotaped officials of ACORN advocating illegal activities. Now, get ready for an undercover expose even more daring: a six-month penetration of the Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations that resulted in the collection of thousands of pages of smoking-gun documents from this terror-supporting front group for the dangerous, mob-like Muslim Brotherhood. This is what Muslim Mafia delivers. It has all the elements of a top-flight mystery novel, but the situations and conversations are real. The book's frightening allegations are supported by more than 12,000 pages of confidential CAIR documents and hundreds of hours of video captured in an unprecedented undercover operation. This trail of information reveals the seditious and well-funded efforts of the Brotherhood under the nonprofit guise of CAIR to support the international jihad against the U.S. Follow intern Chris Gaubatz as he courageously gains the trust of CAIR's inner sanctum, working undercover as a devoted convert to Islam, and blows the whistle on the entire factory fueling the wave of homegrown terrorism now plaguing America.

-- Book blurb, Amazon.com

Four ways Hillary Clinton will work to end gun ownership as president

By John Lott

On Sunday, Hillary Clinton just couldn't bring herself to say on ABC's "This Week" that Americans have an individual right to own guns. But it didn't stop her from denying Donald Trump's claim that she wants to abolish the Second Amendment.

From changing the Supreme Court to make it possible to again ban guns to making it more costly to own guns, I predict that a President Hillary Clinton will do four things to ban guns or reduce gun ownership, especially for poor people:

1. Sunday, George Stephanopoulos pushed Clinton twice

on whether people have a right to own guns on ABC News' "This Week": Clinton could only say: "If it is a constitutional right..."

But to anyone familiar with the Supreme Court rulings on the Second Amendment, Clinton clearly indicated that she would appoint Supreme Court Justices who will allow gun bans.

Until 2008, Washington, D.C., had a complete handgun ban. In *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down these laws.

Clinton told Stephanopoulos: "Until the decision by the late Justice Scalia there was no argument that localities and states and the federal government had a right, as we do with every amendment, to impose reasonable regulation."

Clinton went on to talk about her push for expanded background checks. She could have told us why people should be imprisoned for five years for defending their families.

In *McDonald v. City of Chicago* (2010), Supreme Court justice Stephen Breyer wrote in his dissent: "I can find nothing in the Second Amendment's text, history, or underlying rationale that could warrant characterizing it as 'fundamental' insofar as it seeks to protect the keeping and bearing of arms for private self-defense purposes." Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor joined in this dissent.

If Hillary wins in November, she will appoint Scalia's successor and the Supreme Court will overturn the *Heller* decision. Make no mistake about it, gun bans will return.

2. Stephanopoulos also asked Hillary on about her support in 1993 for a 25 percent sales tax on handguns. Clinton wouldn't say if she still supported such a tax, but she appeared to justify the proposal by talking about the costs of gun violence. Of course, she has never acknowledged the fact that guns are used to stop crimes 4 to 5 times more often than they are used to commit them.

3. The new background checks that Hillary keeps pushing will make guns more costly and not make us safer. In Washington and New York City, expanding background checks to private transfers will add at least \$125 to the cost of obtaining a gun. In New Jersey, it usually adds \$100.

4. Hillary also pushed the idea of making gun makers and sellers liable for guns which end up being used

in crimes. Everyone knows that this will raise the cost of guns and put many out of business.

After adding up all these fees, taxes, and liabilities, few Americans are going to be able to afford guns. That is especially true for the people who need guns the most for protection — poor blacks who live in high crime urban areas.

Of course, Clinton's plan to take away peoples guns could be seen in all her misleading or false statements. On Sunday, she couldn't help repeating the false statistic that gun violence in America claims the lives of "33,000 people a year." In 2014, there were 21,334 firearm suicides, 586 accidental gun deaths, and 8,124 gun murders. Clinton gets to the 33,000 number by adding in roughly 3,000 justifiable homicides by police and civilians.

71 percent of these 30,134 deaths are suicides. In light of Clinton's support for legalizing assisted suicide, it is strange for her not to make a clear distinction between suicides and murders. Banning guns won't prevent suicides — there are simply too many easy ways to kill oneself. In Japan, which has a suicide rate that is 54 percent higher than the U.S. rate, many people take their lives by stepping in front of trains.

It's time for someone to ask Clinton a simple question: Won't overturning the *Heller* decision make gun bans possible again? If so, exactly how is Donald Trump's statement wrong? -- foxnews.com June 6, 2016

Until the No-Fly List Is Fixed, It Shouldn't Be Used to Restrict People's Freedoms

By Hina Shamsi

The No Fly List is in the news this week, just in time for the ACLU's argument in federal court on its five-year-long challenge to the list's redress process.

In response to last week's tragic attack in San Bernardino, California, President Obama urged Congress to ensure that people on the No Fly List be prohibited from purchasing guns. Republicans in Congress defeated a proposal that would have done just that. "I think it's very important to remember people have due process rights in this country, and we can't have some government official just arbitrarily put them on a list," House Speaker Paul Ryan said.

There is no constitutional bar to reasonable regulation of guns, and the No Fly List could serve as one

tool for it, but only with major reform. As we will argue to a federal district court, the standards for inclusion on the No Fly List are unconstitutionally vague, and innocent people are blacklisted without a fair process to correct government error. Our lawsuit seeks a meaningful opportunity for our clients to challenge their placement on the No Fly List.

We filed the suit in 2010 on behalf of 10 U.S. citizens and permanent residents who the government banned from flying to or from the U.S. or over American airspace. (Three more people later joined the suit.) Our clients, among them four U.S. military veterans, were never told why they were on the list or given a reasonable opportunity to get off it. Some were stranded abroad. As one response to our lawsuit, the government began to allow Americans to fly home on a "one-time waiver," with stringent security precautions.

The government made two basic arguments in its defense of the No Fly List, both of which the court rejected. First, it argued that U.S. persons had no constitutionally protected right to fly. In 2013, the court disagreed, holding that constitutional rights are at stake when the government stigmatizes Americans as suspected terrorists and bans them from international travel.

Second, the government asserted that national security concerns meant the government couldn't confirm or deny whether people were on the No Fly List, and it couldn't give them reasons or a hearing before a neutral decision-maker. This violates due process as a constitutional matter. Some of our clients were told they would be taken off the list if they agreed to become government informants. The court held that the government's refusal to provide any notice or a hearing violates the Constitution. As a result, the government announced in April that it would tell U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents whether they are on the No Fly List.

Unfortunately, the government refuses to provide meaningful notice of the reasons our clients are blacklisted, the basis for those reasons, and a hearing before a neutral decision-maker. That's unconstitutional.

The government has emphasized that it is making predictive judgments that people like our clients — who have never been charged let alone convicted of a crime — might nevertheless pose a threat. Based on

evidence from experts, these kinds of predictions guarantee a high risk of error.

We disagree with Speaker Ryan about many things. But he's right that people in this country have due process rights. We want to see them respected.

-- aclu.org December 7, 2015

The Infamous No-Fly No-Buy Gun Bill HR 2578

By Alan Korwin

Blame the Muslims, the jihad, the guns – do it for safety

"Blatant rape of the Constitution"

Has anyone even read the bill that has democrats staging a sit-in on the floor of Congress?

"No district court of the United States or court of appeals of the United States shall have jurisdiction to consider the lawfulness or constitutionality of this section..."

It gets worse.

Under the excuse of fighting terrorism, these democrats, with republican allies, want to deny Americans their individual rights to keep and bear arms -- without probable cause, without due process, and get this -- without being able to view the evidence against them or face their accusers. Their accusers and the evidence remains a secret. Your rights would be denied solely by a secret-police list.

You can't challenge the proposed law's legality because it hasn't got any. It would not pass even the slightest scrutiny, and they know that, hence that clause. My republican senator from Arizona, Jeff Flake, supports this, smiling when he announced it on TV.

The people proposing this 17-page tyrannical travesty should be removed from office.

-- www.jfpo.org June 24, 2016

White folks not wanted: Profiling at gun buyback

White folks need not apply.

That was the message Guns Save Life took away from a foray

up to the Windy City May 14th, to trade unwanted firearms for \$100 pre-paid credit cards. Our experience felt surreal in this era when profiling – especially racial profiling – is a big no-no.

It all began as five Caucasian members of Guns Save Life waited surreptitiously in line at a Chicago gun buyback location. Out of the blue, my wife and I were told by a surly woman that "we won't be taking those today" in reference to a dozen plus long guns my wife and I brought.

I asked if she had an interest in a zip gun. She looked at it like I held a dog turd and said, "I don't know what that is," and walked away. Pearls before swine.

The people in the lobby were asking, "Why did they turn those people away? Aren't they trying to take guns off the streets?"

We watched first-hand as every Caucasian were curtly told their firearms would not be accepted, while African-Americans with similar quantities and types of firearms were welcomed with open arms.

The reason? "This is for members of the community." Ironically, two of the three individuals who were told this live and work in Cook County. The third lives in a nearby suburb.

We visited with a pair of Chicago's finest after getting the heave ho. The plainclothes cops seemed genuinely concerned for our safety and well-being and even helped me load the long guns back into my vehicle.

I asked if they were working overtime for the event. Nope. This was their regular shift.

"We missed a chance to make a real arrest," one said. They had a call of a man with a gun just two or three blocks away, and they couldn't leave to arrest a "real bad guy".

So real criminals in Chicago are left free on the streets because cops are tied up on the mayor's feel-good program.

The officers distanced themselves from the surly woman. "She's not with us," one said. They noted how she was from the mayor's office and had the key to the safe with

the pre-paid gift cards.

Inside, before getting ejected, one of our party overheard the mayor's flack explaining to a member of the media why she rejected my wife and I. "Oh, they are gun dealers who want to unload guns that won't sell," she told him.

Pressed for how she's identifying these dealers by sight alone. "You can tell who's from the neighborhood and who's not."

For the record I'm not a dealer. My C&R license expired last year and I had exactly one gun on my "books".

-- gunssavellife.com May 14, 2016

Study finds police officers arrested 1,100 times a year

So far this month, two New York City police commanders have been charged with corruption, an officer in Killeen, Tex., has been accused of sexual assault, a Philadelphia police officer has been charged with extortion, and an officer in Honolulu has been accused of raping a 14-year-old girl.

Police officers are arrested about 1,100 times a year, or roughly three officers per day, according to a new national study. The most common crimes were simple assault, drunken driving, aggravated assault, and a significant numbers of sex crimes. About 72 percent of officers charged in cases with known outcomes are convicted, more than 40 percent of the crimes are committed on duty, and nearly 95% of those charged are men.

The study was conducted by researchers at Bowling Green State University through a grant from the Justice Department's National Institute of Justice.

"Police crimes are not uncommon," lead researcher Philip M. Stinson concluded. "Our data directly contradicts some of the prevailing assumptions and the proposition that only a small group of rotten apples perpetrate the vast majority of police crime."

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